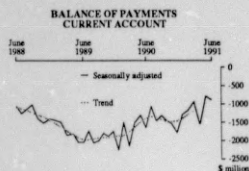


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 1 August 1991

The week in statistics ...

- | | |
|--|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fall in trade surplus raises June current account deficit | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> June housing approvals shed most of their May gain | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turnaround in manufacturing input and output prices | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian perspectives | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1991 Census — it's this week! | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Synopsis of articles, July 1991 | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing in June ... | 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in building material prices | 9 |
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Fall in trade surplus raises June current account deficit

In seasonally adjusted terms, the current account deficit for June 1991 rose \$94 million to \$877 million. The rise was mainly due to a \$101 million fall in the merchandise trade surplus to \$532 million. Merchandise exports rose 1 per cent to \$4,503 million (the highest result on record), while merchandise imports rose 4 per cent to \$3,971 million.

The current account deficit for 1990-91 was \$15,309 million, down 31 per cent on the deficit of \$22,280 million for 1989-90. The fall of \$6,971 million was mainly attributable to a \$5,719 million turnaround, from a deficit of \$3,176 million to a surplus of \$2,543 million in the balance on merchandise trade, and a fall of \$958 million in the net services deficit.

Despite the 12 per cent rise in the deficit in June, the outcomes on the current account in May and June were the lowest monthly deficits since April 1988.

**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
CURRENT ACCOUNT**
\$ million

	May 1991		June 1991	
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted
Balance on merchandise trade	716	633	833	532
Net services	-278	-250	-345	-237
Net income	-1,346	-1,349	-1,341	-1,354
Net unrequited transfers	158	183	133	182
<i>Balance on current account</i>	<i>-750</i>	<i>-783</i>	<i>-720</i>	<i>-877</i>

In original terms for the month of June, merchandise exports fell by \$279 million or 6 per cent to \$4,407 million.

Non-rural exports fell \$243 million or 7 per cent, mainly due to lower volumes of mineral commodities and a sharp drop in the transport equipment category.

The largest falls were recorded in other mineral fuels, down \$123 million (mainly due to lower volumes of crude petroleum exports); transport equipment, down \$114 million (due to the export of an Australian Airlines aircraft valued at \$2 million, compared with the export of two Qantas aircraft, valued at \$112 million in May); metal ores and minerals, down \$105 million (due to lower uranium and alumina exports). The largest rise was recorded in 'other' non-rural exports, up \$51 million.

Rural exports fell \$36 million or 3 per cent. Falls in wool (due to both volume and price decreases in greasy wool); cereals (due to lower wheat volumes); and sugar; were partially offset by rises in meat and 'other' rural exports.

Merchandise imports fell \$396 million or 10 per cent, in original terms. Falls were recorded in all categories except civil aircraft, which was up \$170 million (due to the import of a Qantas aircraft valued at \$170 million compared with no civil aircraft imports in May). The largest falls were recorded in machinery, down \$209 million, or 17 per cent; manufactures, down \$115 million, or 14 per cent; and chemicals, down \$73 million, or 15 per cent.

For further information, order the publication Balance of Payments, Australia (5301.0), or contact Mr Zia Abbasi on (06) 252 6689.

June housing approvals shed most of their May gain

Total dwelling unit approvals fell by 9.8 per cent, in seasonally adjusted terms, between May and June 1991, with the private sector house component falling by 5.4 per cent. This has dampened the early positive signs indicated by the large April to May 1991 increases (10.6% and 7.9% respectively).

With monthly building approvals data showing volatility, the ABS trend estimates are a better indicator of the underlying behaviour of the series. The trend estimates of both total dwelling units approved and private sector house approvals are still showing slight upward growth to June 1991 although the levels of approvals remain below those recorded in June 1990.

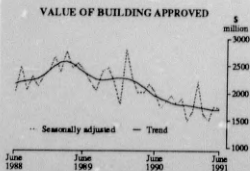
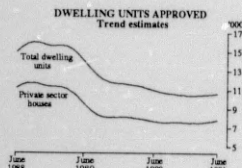
DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, JUNE 1991

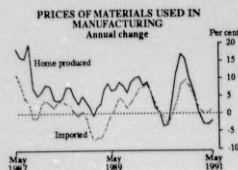
	Number	Percentage change	
		From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Private sector houses —			
Original	7,560	-17.3	-3.7
Seasonally adjusted	7,695	-5.4	-2.3
Trend estimate	7,801	1.4	1.7
Total dwelling units —			
Original	10,310	-18.0	-8.2
Seasonally adjusted	10,215	-9.8	-7.2
Trend estimate	10,621	0.7	-3.0

The seasonally adjusted value of total building approved (residential and non-residential) fell by 2.0 per cent to \$1,721.6 million between May and June 1991 and was 14.6 per cent lower than June 1990. The trend series for total value has levelled out following a period of continual decline since December 1989.

Trend estimates for the value of both new residential building and alterations and additions approved remain flat. Trend estimates for the value of non-residential building approved are available to March 1991 and continued to decline to that point.

For further information, order the publication Building Approvals, Australia (8731.0), or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.





Turnaround in manufacturing input and output prices

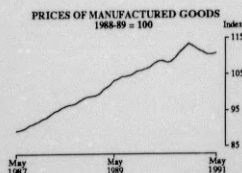
Following a five-month period of decline, the prices of manufactured goods rose by 0.3 per cent in May 1991, and the prices of materials used in manufacturing rose by 0.2 per cent.

In the year to May, prices of manufactured goods rose by a modest 1.8 per cent, while the cost of materials used in manufacturing declined by 0.9 per cent.

On the input side, higher prices for local and imported crude oil and home-produced milk were the main causes for the May rise. For imports, the rise was more than offset by decreased prices for chemicals and chemical-based products.

PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING
MAY 1991
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	-0.1	1.2
Home produced	0.3	-2.0
All manufacturing	0.2	-0.9



On the output side there were small increases in a wide range of items in the indexes, the main contributors being refined petroleum products and ginned cotton. These rises were partly offset by falls for about 30 per cent of the index items, the most significant being for motor vehicles and raw sugar.

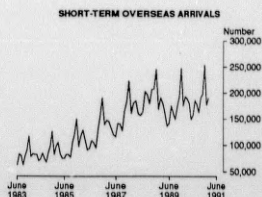
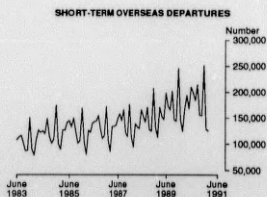
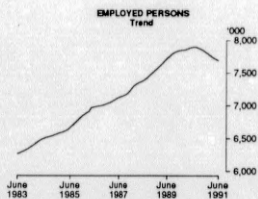
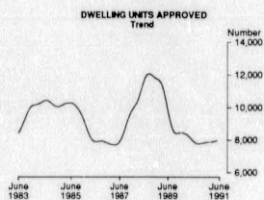
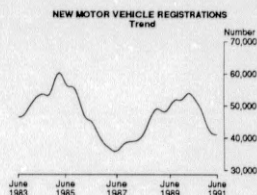
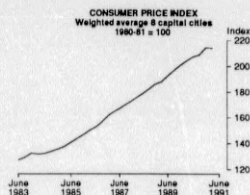
PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, MAY 1991
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Chemical products	-0.4	4.9
Clothing and footwear	0.0	3.5
Fabricated metal products	0.3	3.2
Transport equipment	-0.6	3.1
Petroleum products	3.2	3.0
Other industrial machinery	0.3	2.8
Food and beverages	0.0	0.6
Basic metal products	-0.7	-5.3
Total manufacturing	0.3	1.8

For further information, order the publications *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (6411.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348 and *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (6412.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

Australian perspectives

Australian perspectives is an occasional series of selected graphs illustrating the latest published national data.



1991 Census — it's this week!

Australia's twelfth national census of population and housing will be held on the night of 6 August 1991. It will be the largest statistical collection ever undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). In fact, census forms are being delivered to nearly 6.5 million households across Australia at the time this article is published.

Several years of planning and public consultation have gone into the 1991 Census. The ABS believes that the Australian people are now more aware than ever of the vital importance of the picture they will paint of themselves on the night of 6 August. Their care and diligence in completing the Census form will guarantee optimum end value from the data collected. Collection of Census forms starts on 7 August.

Statistics Weekly

Synopsis of articles, July 1991

4 July 1991

Job vacancies halved in year to May

The estimated number of job vacancies, seasonally adjusted, fell 4.4 per cent from 26,900 in February 1991 to 25,700 in May 1991. This is a decrease of 49.8 per cent compared with May 1990 and it is the lowest estimate since the series was introduced in November 1983.

Modest wages growth confirmed by final figures

Final estimates confirm that average weekly ordinary time earnings rose by 1.6 per cent for full-time adults in the three months to February 1991.

Lowest recorded annual rise in prices of manufactured goods ...

Prices of manufactured goods remained steady in April 1991 after four successive monthly declines. The All Manufacturing Industry index rose by 1.7 per cent between April 1990 and April 1991. This is the smallest annual increase recorded since the index was first compiled in July 1969.

... and input prices still falling

The price indexes of materials used in manufacturing industries fell 1.3 per cent in April 1991, with prices for home produced materials falling 1.6 per cent and imported material prices falling 0.7 per cent.

Building materials prices subdued

Prices for materials used in house building increased by 0.1 per cent from March to April 1991, while prices for materials used in other than house building increased by 0.2 per cent.

Farm survey showed turnover up but profit down in 1989-90

The latest estimates from the Agricultural Finance Survey show that the turnover of farm businesses in 1989-90 was \$21.6 thousand million. This represents an increase of 6.7 per cent compared with 1988-89, the smallest increase since 1986-87 when the survey was reintroduced on a regular basis.

New statistics show assets and liabilities of friendly societies

Recently the Australian Bureau of Statistics released for the first time statistics on the assets and liabilities of the fifteen largest friendly societies in Australia. This new quarterly publication supplements the already extensive ABS statistical coverage of the financial sector of the Australian economy.

New vehicle registrations up but trend still down

Despite an increase of 11.0 per cent in unadjusted total new motor vehicle registrations in May 1991 to 44,723 vehicles, the corresponding seasonally adjusted estimates showed a 4.3 per cent decline.

Divorce rate up marginally in 1990

In 1990 there were 42,635 divorces granted throughout Australia, an increase of 3 per cent over 1989 (41,383). The crude divorce rate increased slightly from 2.46 per 1,000 population in 1989 to 2.50 in 1990.

Synopsis of articles, July 1991 – *continued*

11 July 1991

Lowest monthly current account deficit for three years

In seasonally adjusted terms, the current account deficit for May 1991 fell \$689 million to \$857 million. This was the lowest monthly deficit recorded since April 1988.

Fall in employee award coverage

A five percentage point drop over five years in employee award coverage is seen in the findings of the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics survey on employees covered by national and State awards.

Housing approvals rise sharply

Total dwelling unit approvals rose by 10.6 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms between April and May 1991, with the private sector house component rising by 7.9 per cent. Increases occurred in all States and Territories, although in original terms they have not yet returned to the levels of May 1990, which in turn were well down on one year earlier.

Fewer migrants in 1990

There were 31,330 settlers who arrived in Australia during the December quarter 1990, 4 per cent more than for the previous December quarter (30,230). However, the number of settlers for the 1990 calendar year (121,550) dropped 7 per cent compared with the 1989 (131,070).

Drought triggers cattle slaughtering

Large increases in cattle slaughtering in May 1991 were mainly attributable to the effects of the drought. All States reported large increases in slaughtering of bulls, bullocks and steers as well as cows and heifers, leading to a 21 per cent increase in total cattle slaughtering.

18 July 1991

Further falls in both employment and unemployment in June

A fall in the number of males employed full time was the main component of the decrease in employment in June 1991. The number of persons unemployed and the unemployment rate also fell for the second consecutive month, as did the participation rate.

Retail growth still weak

Trend estimates of turnover growth for retail and selected service establishments remained weak despite a rise of 3.1 per cent in the May 1991 seasonally adjusted estimate. The May monthly rise did little more than offset a 2.9 per cent fall, seasonally adjusted, in April.

More working days lost in 1990 due to industrial disputes

The number of working days lost through industrial disputes increased by 14.5 per cent over the previous year, to 1,376,500 in 1990. This increase can be attributed primarily to the level of dispute in the metal products, machinery and equipment manufacturing industry which accounted for 39 per cent of working days lost in 1990.

Wool clip forecast down sharply

Shorn wool production is expected to decrease by 12.6 per cent in 1991-92, to 885 thousand tonnes, compared with an expected 1,013 thousand tonnes for 1990-91.

25 July 1991

Export prices stabilise

Export prices remained unchanged in May 1991, with offsetting increases and decreases finally halting the latest five-month decline in export prices.

Foreign debt position worsens

Net foreign liabilities at 31 March 1991 totalled \$178.4 million, an increase of 3 per cent on the position at the end of the December quarter.

Sharp increase in full-time tertiary education numbers

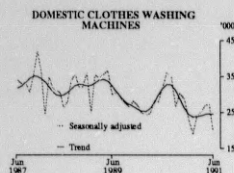
There was a 13 per cent increase in the number of young people attending tertiary education institutions between September 1988 and September 1990.

Home lending rises again

Seasonally adjusted housing finance commitments for May 1991 totalled \$2,029.5 million, an increase of \$26.6 million (1.3%) on April 1991 and \$370.1 million (22.3%) on May 1990.

Winemakers boost the export drive but local sales are down

The trend estimate for domestic sales by Australian winemakers has declined for the seventh consecutive month, from 25.6 million litres in October 1990 to 22.4 million litres in May 1991.



Manufacturing in June ...

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)* contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production. The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten *Manufacturing Production Bulletins*.

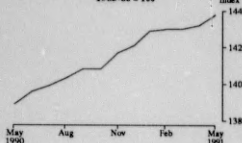
The preliminary publication contains short time series for commodities and should be consulted to obtain a clearer view of production trends as the production of manufacturing commodities can vary quite significantly on a month-to-month basis, even after seasonal adjustment.

In the table below, the 'previous year' column is a generally more reliable guide to trends, but even it should be treated with some caution unless read in conjunction with the more detailed data presented in each monthly publication.

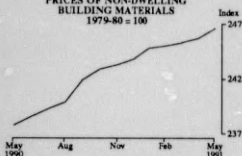
MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, JUNE 1991
Seasonally adjusted, percentage change

Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Chocolate based confectionery	26.2	17.4
Cotton yarn	12.0	14.7
Wool yarn	3.1	7.6
Television sets	-6.1	2.9
Woven man-made fibre fabric	12.0	1.9
Other confectionery	13.0	0.5
Beer	-1.5	-4.2
Textile floor coverings	5.9	-4.3
Electricity	-5.2	-6.0
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	-13.3	-7.3
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	-9.1	-9.6
Domestic refrigerators	-13.5	-10.4
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	9.8	-10.7
Iron and steel ingots or in other primary forms	0.8	-11.7
Gas available for issue through mains	-9.8	-13.1
Cigarettes and tobacco	-6.7	-13.9
Clay bricks	-2.7	-18.6
Woven cotton fabric (including towelling)	16.7	-20.2
Motor vehicles for goods and materials	14.8	-20.3
Portland cement	-13.6	-22.7
Cars and station wagons	-7.2	-26.1
Electric motors	-17.0	-35.4
Domestic clothes washing machines	-26.5	-37.5
Sulphuric acid; oleum	-13.4	-43.0
Petrol-rotary type lawn mowers	-47.7	-58.6

PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS
1985-86 = 100



PRICES OF NON-DWELLING
BUILDING MATERIALS
1979-80 = 100



Increase in building material prices

Prices for materials used in both house building and building other than house building increased by 0.4 per cent from April to May 1991.

The annual rate of increase for house building materials was 3.5 per cent to May compared with 3.3 per cent to April and 6.3 per cent to May 1990. For materials used in other than house building the annual rate of increase to May was 3.7 per cent, April was 3.6 per cent and May 1990, 7.1 per cent.

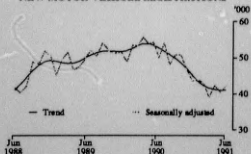
The main increases in house building materials were for switches and switchboards, electrical cables and structural timber. For materials used in building other than houses the main increases were for reinforcing steel bar, fabric and mesh, switchboards and switchgear and air conditioning equipment. The main decrease was for aluminium screen doors, louvres and other fabricated products.

PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, MAY 1991
Percentage change

City	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.1	3.5	0.3	4.1
Melbourne	0.3	2.4	0.1	3.4
Brisbane	1.1	6.2	0.7	3.3
Adelaide	0.1	3.1	0.3	3.2
Perth	0.2	3.6	0.4	4.1
Hobart	0.4	4.1	0.7	3.1
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.4	3.5	0.4	3.7
Darwin	— Not available —		-0.1	5.8
Canberra	0.4	4.3	0.4	5.5

For further information, order the publications Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0) and Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building (6407.0), or contact Mark Dickson on (06) 252 6198.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



Year-long decline in new vehicle registrations is halted

The trend estimate for new motor vehicle registrations for June 1991 increased by 0.1 per cent. This was the first rise in the trend since April 1990 and follows five months of successively smaller declines in new registrations. However, these figures should be treated with caution as trend estimates are subject to revision when data for subsequent months become available.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Robert Nixon
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

The table below shows the preliminary trend estimates for new motor vehicle registrations.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, JUNE 1991
Trend estimate

Vehicle type	Number	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Motor cars and station wagons	32,781	0.1	-22.0
Other vehicles	8,292	-0.2	-21.9
Total	41,072	0.1	-22.0

The seasonally adjusted series for June 1991 showed an increase of 4.0 per cent (3.9 per cent to 33,673 registrations for new cars and station wagons, and 4.2 per cent to 8,538 registrations for 'other' vehicles).

In unadjusted terms, June 1991 new car and station wagon registrations decreased by 5.0 per cent to 33,406 vehicles, while 'other' vehicles fell by 4.7 per cent to 9,112 vehicles.

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary (9301.0)*, or contact Kevin Yeaton on (06) 252 6255.

All the week's releases: 24 to 30 July

General

Statistics Weekly, 25 July 1991 (1318.0; \$4.00)
Australian Economic Indicators, July 1991 (1350.0; \$24.00)
Economic Indicators, WA, July 1991 (1307.5; \$5.50)
Tasmania at a Glance, 1991 (1305.6; \$1.00)

Demography

Marriages, Aust., 1990 (3306.0; \$11.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Balance of Payments, Aust., June 1991 (5301.0; \$15.00)
Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports, May 1991 (5432.0; \$9.00)
(Previously: Exports, Aust., Monthly Summary Tables)
Cash Management Trusts, Aust., June 1991 (5635.0; \$4.50)
Personal Finance, Aust., May 1991 (5642.0; \$5.50)
Commercial Finance, Aust., May 1991 (5643.0; \$5.50)
Lease Finance, Aust., May 1991 (5644.0; \$5.50)

Labour statistics and prices

Labour Statistics in Brief, 1991 (6104.0; \$1.00)
The Labour Force, Aust., June 1991 (6203.0; \$14.50)
Industrial Disputes, Aust., April 1991 (6321.0; \$7.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, May 1991 (6407.0; \$10.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, May 1991 (6408.0; \$7.50)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., May 1991 (6411.0; \$10.00)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., May 1991 (6412.0; \$10.00)
Labour Force, SA, May 1991 (6201.4; \$14.50)

Agriculture

Information Paper: AgStats, Aust., 1989-90 (7107.0; free)

Secondary industry and distribution

- Manufacturing Production, Aust., June 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, May 1991 (8357.0; \$6.50)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, May 1991 (8362.0; \$6.50)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Metal Products, May 1991 (8367.0; \$5.50)
- Building Approvals, Aust., June 1991 (8731.0; \$12.50)
- Production Statistics, NSW, May 1991 (8304.1; \$7.50)
- Tourist Accommodation, WA, March Qtr 1991 (8635.5; \$10.00)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, WA, May 1991 (8741.5; \$10.00)
- Building Activity, ACT, March Qtr 1991 (8752.8; \$10.00)

Transport

- Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., June 1991, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.00)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., May 1991 (9303.0; \$10.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 13 August 1991

August

- 7** Consumer Price Index, June Quarter 1991 (6401.0; \$11.00)
- 8** The Labour Force, Australia, July 1991, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.00)
- Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, May 1991, Preliminary (6301.0; \$10.00)
- 12** Retail Trade, Australia, June 1991 (8501.0; \$10.00)

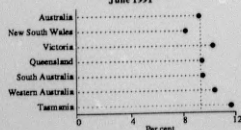
The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
30 July 1991

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 91)*	-8.4	-22.7	0	-8.9	-7.0	-16.9	n.a.	n.a.	-10.2
Retail turnover (May 91) (trend estimate)	2.7	-1.2	3.4	6.9	-0.3	4.5	n.a.	9.3	2.4
New motor vehicle registrations (June 91)†	-18.0	-16.1	-14.2	-14.9	-9.9	-25.7	-22.3	4.0	-15.6
Number of dwelling unit approvals (June 91)	-7.2	-29.1	8.6	-27.1	8.8	-14.6	18.8	25.5	-8.2
Value of total building work done (Mar. qtr 91)	0.8	-30.2	-19.5	2.7	-23.2	-18.8	33.5	-4.2	-13.5
Employed persons (June 91)*	-1.2	-6.2	-1.1	-1.2	-1.5	-2.8	4.8	2.8	2.5
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 91)	4.7	5.3	4.8	6.0	3.9	4.2	5.4	4.2	4.9
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Feb. 91)	7.4	7.4	7.5	8.8	8.8	4.4	7.6	6.7	7.5
Population (Dec. 90)	1.1	1.3	2.3	1.1	2.2	1.1	1.2	2.5	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Dec. qtr 90)	-2.3	0.9	8.0	-0.7	0.3	29.3	32.8	4.6	2.8

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted
June 1991



Key national indicators – consolidated to 30 July 1991

			Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Period	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 91	91,167	95,056	-0.4	1.0
	— 1984-85 prices			61,295	64,415	0.1	-1.5
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 91	5,736	6,463	-2.9	-11.6
	— 1984-85 prices			4,334	4,880	-3.4	-11.5
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to Jun. 91	7,300	n.a.	n.a.	-10.4
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	May 91	7,553.5	7,580.6	3.1	3.9
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	14,284.8	15,243.0	0.4	-1.3
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	June 91	42,518	42,210	4.0	-15.6
Dwelling unit approvals		"	June 91	10,310	10,215	-9.8	-7.2
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	1,675	1,722	-2.0	-14.5
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	6,021	6,653	-5.1	-12.0
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,789	4,112	-6.9	-15.0
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	31,937	34,424	-1.9	-4.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	22,162	23,833	1.5	-7.0
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to June 91	34,850	n.a.	n.a.	-6.2
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	June 91	7,716.7	7,705.7	-0.1	-2.5
Unemployment rate †		%	"	9.0	9.3	-0.1	2.7
Participation rate †		"	"	62.9	63.0	-0.2	-0.8
Job vacancies		'000	May 91	25.1	25.7	-13.4	-49.8
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.1	1.1	-5.9	-18.8
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 91	214.1	n.a.	-0.2	4.9
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		May 91	117.8	n.a.	0.2	-0.9
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0		May 91	110.8	n.a.	0.3	1.8
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Mar. qtr 91	2,266	2,762	-29.1	-32.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	Feb. 91	564.20	n.a.	1.6	7.5
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		June 91	10.50	n.a.	0.15	-4.60
10-year Treasury bonds †		"	"	11.15	n.a.	0.40	-2.25
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	June 91	4,407	4,503	0.9	14.1
Imports of merchandise		"	"	3,574	3,971	3.7	2.0
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	833	532	-16.0	885.2
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	488	295	-23.0	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-720	-877	-12.0	-46.6
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 91	n.a.	98.9	-3.3	-6.5
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	31 Mar. 91	133,269	n.a.	2.1	3.0
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	178,372	n.a.	3.4	7.4
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
SUS	per \$A		June 91	0.7604	n.a.	-0.8	-2.3
Trade weighted index	May 1970 =100.0		"	59.2	n.a.	-0.3	-3.1
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		Dec. 90	17.2	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals (e)	'000		Feb. 91	191	178	-6.3	-0.7

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 31 July 1991.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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